(a) whether complaints have been received about large scale irregularities and misappropriation of Government vehicles of Central Mining Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) Headquarter, Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any inquiry is being contemplated in this regard ;

(d) whether regular scrutiny and checking of the log-books, maintenance and up-keep etc. is made by CMPDI;

(e) whether a number of senior officials like garage in-charge, are working at the same post for almost twenty years; and

(f) if so, the details and reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) and (b) Three complaints were received in February, 1997, March, 1997 and March, 1999 alleging irregularities in repair of company vehicles, purchase of spares and new cars and misuse of company vehicles at Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) Headquarters, Ranchi.

(c) All these complaints were enquired into, but none of the allegations levelled in these complaints could be substantiated.

(d) Proper records of log books and maintenance and upkeep of vehicles are being maintained in CMPDIL and are being checked and audited regularly.

(e) The present Executive (Transport) of CMPDIL has been working in this post since 1994. He was posted as Garage-in-charge in Technical and Supervisory Grade (non-executive) in 1988 before being promoted to the executive cadre in 1994.

(f) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (e) of the question.

Closing down of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.

2841. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally decided to close down the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Company was referred to Board for Industrial and Finance Restructuring;

(d) if so, the reports of the BIFR; and

(e) the steps proposed to be undertaken to rehabilitate the surplus manpower as a result of the close down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (e) Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML) was referred to Board for Industrial and Finanace Restructuring (BIFR) in 1992 when the Company became sick in terms of provisions of Sick Industrial Company (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). As efforts to rehabilitate BGML including through the joint venture route were not successful the Government felt that revival of the Company was not feasible. The Government submitted to the BIFR that it would have no objection to winding up of the Company under the provisions of SICA, and that the Government was ready to offer to all the employees on rolls of the Company as on 31st March, 1999 the benefit of the separation scheme on the lines of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) package approved for the Public Sector Enterprises of the Department of Heavy Industry. BIFR, having heard the case, has issued *prima facie* winding up notice in respect of BGML on 21-2-2000 and fixed hearing on 16-5-2000 for suggestions/objections. The Government has already offered the benefit of VRS to all the employees of BGML.

Change in the Structure of ECL

2842. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is on the process of undergoing major change in its structure;

(b) if so, the details and the time span fixed; and

(c) the details of the loan given by Government and the Coal India Limited to ECL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (b) No final decision on structural changes in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has so far been taken by the Government.